



Storrar, the first a less profound consideration on what a university may give to theology, the second in a sense working this out by giving consideration to Erasmus' writing on preaching, *Ecclesiastes sive De Ratione Concionandi*. Storrar argues that Erasmus, read and appreciated in Old Aberdeen not least by Hector Boece, gave here an early foundation for the discipline of practical theology. Thus, where Rosner has been tempted to see it as “*perfectly possible*” though not ideal (p. 41, my emphasis) for theology to be studied and taught by those who have no faith, Storrar's piece suggests that Rosner was more on the mark where earlier he remarked, on practical theology, that “[i]t is the goal to which all other disciplines must lead” (p.40).

This, perhaps, is the most important point which arises through this publication. It is expressed powerfully through the article by the other “outsider”, Jan Milic Lochman, who reflects on the motto and founding charter of his own university of Basel, that the university brings together two things, assiduous study and the *gift* of the pearl of knowledge. In terms of the foundation, but in terms of wisdom also, we are brought towards naming the name of God above all by thinking carefully about what *universitas* implies: “the dynamic inherent in the term *Universitas* is to be developed in a spirit of solidarity” (pp. 98-9). Professor Johnstone, in his theological reflections opening the book, reflects upon the same theme though with a less confident affirmation of the joy and the play of study; Professor Lochman, at the end of the collection, sees more clearly what is gifted – and what, in consequence, it is for those privileged to study themselves to give.

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Hamish McIntosh, *Robert Laws, Servant of Africa*. Handsel Press Ltd., Carberry, 1993. Pp. xii + 291. £14.95.

The Editor of the *Records* is surely right to suggest that attention should be drawn to a publication on missionary work in a land far from Scotland. In a sense, missionary work should have a double history! It is doubly significant – for the country that is given the light

of the Gospel and for the land from which devoted servants go to declare the Word spoken and the light given long ago.

Hamish McIntosh has lately prepared a new biography of Laws of Livingstonia, 1851-1934, which should be widely read, for it is worthily done. The evangelical spirit in Scotland in the late nineteenth century found expression in Foreign Missions, perhaps especially in Africa when the journeys and labours of David Livingstone became known. Laws became fascinated by Livingstone. He was brought up in the United Presbyterian Church and then determined to prepare himself for missionary service. He studied Arts and Medicine and then moved to Edinburgh and Glasgow to be taught theology in U.P. seminaries.

He was appointed as Medical Officer and second-in-command of the expedition of 1875, pioneered by the Free Church of Scotland and given the name "Livingstonia Mission". It was intended to continue the work that Livingstone began. The site chosen was on Lake Malawi at Cape Maclear and soon Laws was in charge. A move was made to Bandawe in 1880 where there were more people, and Laws worked to build up the church which in due course became the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian.

Laws and his wife returned on furlough several times and in due course his stature grew, so that in 1908 he was chosen as Moderator of the United Free Church of Scotland. Back in Africa, he had to deal with all the problems of the young Church in the 1914-18 war, and he laboured with great ability and authority until he died in 1934.

The book has a good bibliography and much interesting material about the Southern African situation. It would address itself to any intelligent reader. Church historians will find much to instruct them in this important book on Laws, who served Africa so well.

Hamish McIntosh graduated with First Class Honours at Glasgow University and then became Chaplain to the University from 1947 to 1955. He has also been an Army Chaplain and then minister of Scotstoun East Church, Glasgow, Broughton Place, Edinburgh and West Church, Auchterarder. Some years ago he addressed the Society on one aspect of Robert Laws' work (*ante*, xxiii, 95-111).

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